

REMARKS

Please enter this preliminary amendment prior to examination. Claims 1-28 and 30-36 are pending.

Please direct any inquiries to the undersigned attorney at (612) 336-4617.

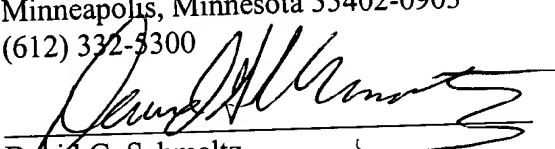
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

Respectfully submitted:

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: _____

3/26/01



David G. Schmaltz
Reg. No. 39,828
DGS:PSTcmz

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

Paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 7 has been amended as follows:

The architecture 40 includes a back plane interface card 42 adapted to couple with a splitter card 44. The interface card 42 is preferably mounted at a back plane 46 of a splitter chassis or housing, and includes a circuit board 48 adapted to align at a generally perpendicular angle relative to the back plane 46. The circuit board 48 includes a back edge 50 positioned generally at the back plane 46, and a front edge 52 that is forwardly offset from the back plane 46. First, second and third multi-pair cable connectors 54, 56, and 58 are mounted at the back edge 50, and first and second card edge connectors 60 and 62 are mounted at the front edge 52. The first cable connector 54 (i.e., a LINE connector as labeled in Figure 8) is adapted for inputting twisted pair, mixed data/voice signals to the interface card 42. The second and third cable connectors 56 are used to respectively output twisted pair, voice signals and twisted pair data signals from the interface card 42. These connectors can be referred to as POTS (i.e., voice) and DATA Connectors as labeled in Figure 8. The connectors 54-58 can have the same configuration as the connector shown in Figures 3A and 3B. Referring to Figure 5D, a few representative conductors 28 are shown within the connectors 54-56.

Paragraph beginning at line 12 of page 9 has been amended as follows:

Figures 5A-5D show the back plane interface card 42 equipped with 24 separate circuits capable of handling 24 different twisted pair signals. In the embodiment of Figures 5A-5D, all of the normally closed contacts 68a and 70a are provided at the first card edge connector 60, and all of the normally open contacts 74 are provided at card edge connector 62. Thus, the normally closed contacts 68a and 70a are grouped separately from the normally open contacts 74. This particular configuration is advantageous because a more simplified tracing layout can be used. For example, because the normally closed contacts 68a and 70a are grouped separately from the normally open contacts 74, none of the third tracings 80 are [not] required to cross over any of the first or second tracings 76 and 78. This helps reduce manufacturing costs by reducing the

number of layers required to manufacture the circuit board 48. Additionally, the reduction in crossing of the tracings may assist in reducing cross talk at the back plane 46.

In the Claims

Claim 29 has been canceled, without prejudice.

Claim 28 has been amended as follows:

28. (Amended) A splitter card comprising:

a circuit board;

a plurality of splitters mounted on the circuit board, each splitter being adapted for receiving a mixed voice and data [signal] signals and outputting [a first signal that is voice only and a second signal that is either data only or mixed voice and data] first signals that are voice only and second signals that are data only;

a first card extension adapted to be received in a card edge connector, the first card extension including first contacts for receiving the mixed voice and data signals and second contacts for outputting the first signals;

a second card extension adapted to be received in a card edge connector, the first card extension including third contacts for outputting the second signals;

first tracings for transmitting the mixed voice and data signals from the first contacts to the splitters;

second tracings for transmitting the first signals from the splitters to the second contacts;

third tracings for transmitting the second signals from the splitters to the third contacts; and

all of the first and second contacts being located at the first extension and all of the third contacts being located at the second extension, wherein the first and second contacts [being] are grouped [separately] together at a location separate from the third contacts.

New claims 31-36 have been added as follows:

31. (New) A telecommunications component comprising:

a circuit board;

a multi-pair line connector for inputting twisted pair, mixed data/voice signals to the circuit board;

a multi-pair voice connector for outputting twisted pair, voice signals from the circuit board;

a multi-pair data connector for outputting twisted pair, data signals or mixed data/voice signals from the circuit board;

one or more card edge connectors connected to the circuit board, the one or more card edge connectors including:

a first card edge connector having exclusively normally closed contacts;

a second card edge connector having exclusively normally open contacts;

first conductive pathways provided on the circuit board for connecting the line connector to the normally closed contacts;

second conductive pathways provided on the circuit board for connecting the normally closed contacts to the voice connector; and

third conductive pathways provided on the circuit board for connecting the normally open contacts to the data connector.

32. (New) The telecommunications component of claim 31, wherein the conductive pathways are positioned such that none of the third conductive pathways on the circuit board cross-over any of the first or second conductive pathways.

33. (New) A telecommunications chassis assembly comprising:

a chassis defining a reference back plane;

one or more printed circuit boards positioned adjacent the reference back plane;

a plurality of multi-pair line connectors for inputting twisted pair, mixed data/voice signals to the one or more circuit boards;

a plurality of multi-pair voice connectors for outputting twisted pair, voice signals from the one or more circuit boards;

a plurality of multi-pair data connectors for outputting twisted pair, data signals or mixed data/voice signals from the one or more circuit boards;

a first row of first card edge connectors positioned within the chassis, the first card edge connectors having exclusively normally closed contacts;
a second row of second card edge connectors positioned within the chassis, the second card edge connectors having exclusively normally open contacts;
the line and voice connectors being electrically connected by the one or more circuit boards exclusively to the first row of card edge connectors; and
the data connectors being electrically connected by the one or more circuit boards exclusively to the second row of card edge connectors.

34. (New) The telecommunications chassis assembly of claim 33, wherein the first and second rows are horizontal rows.

35. (New) A telecommunications chassis assembly comprising:
a chassis defining a reference back plane;
one or more printed circuit boards positioned adjacent the reference back plane;
a plurality of multi-pair line connectors for inputting twisted pair, mixed data/voice signals to the one or more circuit boards;
a plurality of multi-pair voice connectors for outputting twisted pair, voice signals from the one or more circuit boards;
a plurality of multi-pair data connectors for outputting twisted pair, data signals or mixed data/voice signals from the one or more circuit boards;
a first array of card edge connectors positioned within the chassis;
a second array of card edge connectors positioned within the chassis;
the line and voice connectors being electrically connected by the one or more circuit boards exclusively to the first array of card edge connectors; and
the data connectors being electrically connected by the one or more circuit boards exclusively to the second array of card edge connectors.

36. (New) The telecommunications chassis assembly of claim 35, wherein the first and second arrays are separate rows.